THE INSTALLATION OF GUNS FOR THE PURITAN CAUSES TROUBLE.

THE LOSS OF THE KATAHDIN'S CONNING TOWER TOP RAISES A QUESTION OF FINANCE-A CONFERENCE RELATIVE TO THE

METHOD OF PAINTING THE

April, and the repairs necessary to the trainingall the week, the Navy Yard has, nevertheless, been the scene of considerable activity in the week just ended. The question of authority which came up between the heads of the Bureau f Construction and Repair and Ordnance and he Commandant, which resulted in the departare for Washington on Wednesday of the officers interested, caused not a little comment. On an apparently trivial matter hung a heavy weight of responsibility and some delay in the compltion of the work of installing the guns of awaiting her gun mounts. Commander Charles S. Sperry is the head of the Orinance Bureau in the yard, and in that office has control of th installation of ordnance material into the ships nder construction there. Some time ago the work of preparation for the mounting of the thirteen-inch guns of the monitor was begun, and before it had advanced far the ordnance officer and Naval Constructor Francis T. Bowles disagreed over the placing of a lug, and Mr. Bowles placed the lug as he saw fit. This caused an appeal to the Commandant, who ordered the order was not issued until the job had been completed. The Department became involved in the affair through the Ordnance Bureau desiring the position of the lug changed, to which the Construction Bureau objected, sustaining Mr Bowles. The result of the squabble has been that the guns of the Puritan are still on the ground. The hearing given by the Secretary will clear the matter up, but a decision is not expected for a few days. Commodore Sicard returned to the yard yesterday, but the other officers had not returned late yesterday afternoon. The contention of Constructor Bowles is that, under the regulations of the Department, a certain portion of the work of installation of the guns comes under the supervision of his department, and he has gone ahead on that idea.

THE SECRETARY'S ATTITUDE.

It is regarded at the yard as extremely probable that the constructor will be upheld by the Secretary, and the whole trouble appears to be another manifestation of the feeling of rivalry between the line and the staff, which is continually cropping up in one form or another. As an officer at the yard put it yesterday, in speaking of the case This only serves to call attention to one thing necessary in the regulations fixing responsibility for work in the different departments. The duties sharply defined that there would be no room for a clash, and a careful study of the case will show how easily this could be brought about. Let steam engineering have complete control of the motive power of a ship, both in its installation and handling when in service. Construction should have full power when the building or alteration of a ship is in question, after the plans have been settled on, and ordnance should have the same full control of the guns and batteries of the ship that the two other departments have in their re-

Whether or not the decision of the Secretary will contain any instruction which will obviate further difficulty of the sort is in doubt, but that it should is admitted by all who are interested in the work of the bureau and the handling of the forces, to say nothing of the completion of the ships now under construction.

ARMOR PLATE DIVES INTO MUD.

One of the most exasperating accidents which has happened in the yard for a long time occurred on Wednesday afternoon, when the top plate of the conning tower of the ram Katahdin broke from its fastening as it was being hoisted into position on the ram, and went overboard. The work was being done under the direction of Construction and Repair, and the gear used in hoisting the plate was of rope, the accident resulting from the chafing of the sharp edge of the plate. Workmen scattered as they eaw the plate falling, and when it struck the deck and, making a slight dent, slid off into the waters of the Wallabout Channel there was a sigh of relief that no further damage was caused. The water where the plate disappeared is about thirty-five feet deep, and as the mud has been pretty well stirred by the dredging operations in the channel, it has so far been impossible for a diver to recover the missing plate. James Cummings, an employe of the Construction Department, has made several efforts to find it, but

deep in the soft mild of the channel. If this view be correct there is a good chance that it will cost more to get the plate out of the mud than it would to have a new one made. The lost plate is made of Harveylzed steel, is eight feet in diameter and six inches thick, and weighs about two tons. It is expected that the foreman in charge of the work will have charges preferred against him for not having used from tackling.

Assistant Naval Constructor Frank B. Zahn, who is connected with the Construction Department, and Miss Josephine Collins were married on Saturday last at the home of the bride's mother, Mrs. Pattle Lyle Collins, in Jeffersen Place, Washington. The Rev. Alfred Hardin, of St. Paul's Church, officiated, and Assistant Naval Constructor H. L. Ferguson was best man. Mr. and Mrs. Zahn will make their home in Brooklyn.

PAINT FOR SHIP BOTTOMS. PAINT FOR SHIP BOTTOMS.

Commander Sperry, while in Washington in connection with the difficulty over the Puritan, had a conference with Assistant Secretary Mc-Adoo relative to the method of painting the bottoms of ships and the kind of paint to be used. toms of ships and the kind of paint to be used. Commander Sperry is head of the Paint Board at the yard, and is regarded as an expert on the subject. The purpose of the Assistant Secretary is to devise a pian under which ships will be painted with the best procurable substance and in a prescribed way. It is possible that a Board of Officers may be appointed to thoroughly investigate the subject, which is regarded by the Department and of extreme importance.

the subject, which it regarded by the Department as of extreme importance.

Is is announced that the new naval system of accounts relative to the civil employes of the yard will go into effect on April I. The system was approved by the Secretary 2 short time ago, and will be issued in the form of a general order in a few days. The blank forms to be used in the shops are being printed and, as soon as they are completed the order will be issued.

There is a well-defined rumor current that Captain Henry Glass, at present on special duty connected with the second class battle-ship Texus, will succeed Captain Henry C. Taylor, president of the War College in Newport, in October next, when, it is said, the latter will be ordered to sea duty. A number of officers have been seeking to become the next president of the War College, but it is said that Captain Glass's knowledge of international law acted greatly in his favor.

INCREASING THE ACTIVE FLEET.

INCREASING THE ACTIVE FLEET.

The commissioning of the monitor Terror will mark the beginning of a comparatively rapid increase in the active list of the Navy. In about a month, it is expected, her officers and crew will be on board, and her flag flying. Following her will come the Puritan, on which, by direction of the Secretary, work is being pushed. No detail has yet been made for her command, although there are several officers who would like the billet. The battle-ship Oregon will have her trial trip early in June. If her machinery is all right, and the other contract requirements are fulfilled, there is no reason why she should not be in commission early in August. The report is that Captain Francis A. Cook, at present assistant chief of the Bureau of Navigation, is to be her commander Close on the heels of the Oregon comes the battle-ship Massachusetts, which, naval officers say, will be ready for a trial trip early in July, and can be put in active service by September 1. The gunboats Nashville, Wilmington and Helena will be ready for their machinery trials

in October, and early in the same month the armored cruiser Brooklyn will be ready for her sea trial. The Department is confident that she will be in condition to receive her officers and men by the middle of December. The battleship Iowa can, the authorities say, be pushed to completion by March 1, next, although she is not yet launched.

to completion by March I, next, although she is not yet launched.

It is said that the Secretary is anxious to have all the ships named in commission before the expiration of his term of office, on March 4 of next year, and naval officers who have been asked about it, say that his wishes can be carried out, with the possible exception of the Iowa, and even in her case if the construction work is preperly expedited. It is known that orders have been issued directing all possible haste in the completion of the Oregon and Massachusetts, and the three gunboats, and it is not unlikely that similar orders will be sent out relative to the Iowa and the Brooklyn at an early date.

TROUBLE IN THE CHURCH.

WEST END BAPTIST DEACONS EXPEL A MEMBER.

THE TROUBLE OVER THE ELECTION OF THE REV GEORGE W. GREENWOOD TAKES A

drawing the hand of fellowship from R. Ramsden, phase of the trouble in connection with the election of the Rev. George W. Greenwood to the pastorate of the church, which, according to the allegations of a number of the friends of Mr. Ramsden, was ught about by fraud.

After a meeting held a few months ago, at which was decided to call Mr. Greenwood to the pulpit of the church, Mr. Ramsden wrote a letter to a South Brooklyn weekly newspaper, setting forth that the election had been irregularly conducted, and that Mr. Greenwood was not entitled to the renition due a pastor. It was further said that Mr. Greenwood, up to early last summer, was a failure as a preacher and as a spiritual director of the congregation. It was also charged that Mr. Green wood was unpatriotic. Before resigning his posi-tion as paster last summer Mr. Greenwood is said fitted only for evangelical work, and that only in In addition to this Mr. Greenwood is put that under no circumstances would be again accept The position which Mr. Ramsden, who is a well

known resident of the western part of South Brookin the least appreciated by the clergyman and his characterized him as being a man with a dis-affected mind. But this did not phase Mr. Ramsden, and he continued in his warfare against the which consists of Messrs, Campbell, Teale, Peck, McKahle, Van Winkle and Dorning, was called to the controversy. They cited Mr. Ramsden to ap pear before them and make an explanation.

Board has no jurisdiction in the matter. He further contended that the regular mode of procedure—that of appointing a committee to investigate charges—should be followed.

Friday night in the West End Baptist Church is the weekly prayer meeting night. Mr. Greenwood presided at the last one of these, but eft the chair when it was announced that a business meeting would be held. Those who are not members of the church were requested to leave at once. Then the report of the Board of Deacons, prefaced by a few remarks by Senior Deacon Peck, to the effect that he had a sorrowful duty to perform, was accepted. After this action had been taken the Rev. Mr. Greenwood said that he was sorry Mr. Ramsden had not seen his way clear to appear before the Board of Deacons and make his peace with them relative to the dissatisfaction which he, as pastor, had given the expelled member. Mr. Ramsden replied that if Mr. Greenwood had done his duty as pastor toward him there would have been no unpleasantness. Mr. Ramsden, however, is now expelled from the West End Baptist Church. He was seen yesterday by a reporter of The Tribune, who asked him if he intended to fight the matter. Mr. Ramsden and he had nothing to say.

"As against a corporation, do you think that you would obtain a mandamus compelling the Board of Deacons of the church to reinstate you?" asked the reporter.

"I cannot just now answer that question," re-

plied Mr. Ramsden.

A member of the church, who was seen later, said that the expulsion of Mr. Ramsden was an outrage. There never was such a larke meeting of the members of the church as that held Friday night. The lame, halt and blind were induced, and in fact invelsied from their homes to attend that meeting and lend their aid in this effort to suppress the demand of a just man. I think Mr. Ramsden will obtain justice in the courts of this State."

MAKING A GENERAL KICK.

ANTI-TRUST LEAGUE ADOPTS A FEW RESOLU-

The Anti-Trust League of America held a meeting at its Fifth-ave, headquarters on Friday night, and adopted resolutions which were in part as fol-

to any railroad company. A lease of twenty-one years, at a reasonable rental, should be given until the people are prepared for municipal ownership of

dishonest, immoral and un-American, and must give way before the advancing tide of popular dis-approval, to the end that the whole people be no longer beasts of burden for a few favored gentle-

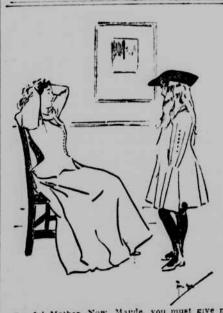
nen.

Resolved, That the persistent attempts to loot our epieted treasury before consolidation by Brooken's present officials should receive the condemnation of the people.
Resolved, That copies of these resolutions be furnished President Cleveland, Senator Hill, Mayor Wurster and the Independent press.

Special thanksgiving services will be held to-day n the Sands Street Memorial Methodist Episcopal Church, at Clark and Henry sts., to celebrate the paying off of the entire mortgage indebtedness of the church and parsonage, amounting to \$13,000. Andrews, bishop of the conference. At 2:45 p. m. Andrews, bishop of the conference. At 2:45 p. m. there will be a laymen's platform meeting, at which J. J. Barnier will preside. A financial statement of the work accomplished will be given by ex-Mayor D. D. Whitney, and there will be brief addresses by John E. Scarles, Judge George G. Reynolds, C. F. Jones, and others. An evening service, beginning at 6:45 o'clock, will be he'd, at which the Rev. Dr. C. S. Wing will preside. Former pastors of the church, and pastors of neighboring churches, will speak, and there will be brief addresses by the presiding elder, the Rev. Dr. Charles Cuthbert Hall, the Rev. Dr. Lyman Abbott, and others.

A TROLLEY-CAR HITS A HEARSE.

A trolley mailcar of the Broadway line demolished a hearse belonging to James Cunningham, an undertaker, of No. 138 Duffield-st., yesterday aftersoon at Breadway and Lafayette-ave. The hearse, which was driven by George C. Belzer, of No which was driven by deorge C. Beizer, of No. 75. Prince-st., was returning from a funeral. Beizer was crossing the tracks when the car came rapidly along and struck the vehicle. It was badly smashed and Beizer was thrown to the pavement and, besides cutting his head, fractured his left wrist. He was taken into a drue store, where his wounds were bandaged and then he went home.



all your money to save. You know it will be as eafe as in the bank with me.

Maude (who has been there before)—Yes, mammy deal; safer, cause you can get it out of the bank.—
(The Sketch.

THE REV. DR. E. A. HOFFMAN SUCCEEDS DR. S.

Downtown Association, in Pine-st., New-York. and hever gives elaborate dinners, "smokers" or ladies' entertainments, hence its annual meethat the annual meeting is something more than a staid business session, and that on the appointed day in February the members assemble and have a good time, the memories of which last rual gathering is a bounteous dinner, which is always followed by an entertainment of one kind r another. This year Alden S. Swan, formerly Brooklyn's Collector of Taxes, was the chief provoker of mirth and jollity. Those present at the meeting were the Rev. E. A. Hoffman, Julien T. Davies, William H. Force, G. Howland Leavitt, Chauncey Marshall, George Walton Green, A. S. Van Wiekle, James N. Jawie, H. Adams, A. S. Swan, T. Austin and T. Wellington.

The festivities this year were somewhat saddened by the keen sense of loss felt by the members because of the recent death of Dr. S. Fleet Speir, who had been the president of the club



ROBINS ISLAND CLUBHOUSE.

The Robins Island Club desires to express its sense of its great loss in the death of its late president, by: S. Fleet Speir, and to express its deep sympathy for the members of his family. Resolved, That the foregoing minute, and this resolution be spread at large upon the minutes of the stockholders, and that a copy thereof he properly engrossed, certified by the secretary and sent by him to the family of our deceased president.

In the election of officers for the present year Resolved, That not one foot of our streets be given the Rev. Dr. E. A. Hoffman, dean of the Union Theological Seminary, was chosen as Dr. Spetr's successor. The other officers chosen were: Vice-President, Julien T. Davies; secretary and treasurer, William H. Force; Board of Directors, the Rev. Dr. Hoffman, Julien T. Davies, William H. Force, G. Howland Leavitt, Chaun-cey Marshall, George Walton Green and E. W. McClave. The secretary's report by Mr. Force showed that the club is now better equipped than ever before. Robbin's Island, in Peconic Bay, comprising over a thousand acres, is owned by the club, and on it is a commodious and well-appointed clubhouse. Within the last year the house has been refitted in order to accommodate more satisfactorily the women friends of the members, who often go there for brief outings at all seasons. Pheasantries have been built for the raising of English pheasants, and several new barns and outhouses have also beer, erected.

The club has never enjoyed better shooting than in the last year, and several members have reported that when on hunting expeditions in the celebrated game countries in the South and West they have failed to find more profitable sport than that offered by their own island. The island has been heavily stocked, and it is not probable that within eighty miles of New-York there is another spot which has so many attractions for sportsmen. During the present season about 1,800 quail and 300 pheasants have been shot there. Snipe and woodcock were also taken in great numbers in the fall. A force of a half-dozen or more men is employed on the island throughout the year caring for the property of the club, and raising grain and crops on which the birds feed. The kennels, where may be seen some of the best setters in the country, also require much at-

Few improvements are now needed on the island to make the happiness of the members complete. The only additional expenditure suggested at the annual meeting was for a steam launch to be used between Robbin's Island and the shores of the bay. A launch will soon be purchased and sent to the Island. In years past the house has occasionally been closed for short periods in the winter, but it is now proposed to keep it open from January to January. Everything is now arranged to provide for the comfort of the members, even in the severest months of the year.

Membership in the club is strictly limited to twenty-five, and owing to the great expense incurred in keeping the grounds well stocked with the best game birds, the necessity of caring incessantly for the house and pack of setters, and the scores of additional expenses, the taxes levied upon the members are by no menas light. Every member, however, considers that he is making a profitable investment, and it is probable that the membership would soon double if one of the club's strictest rules did not make such a thing impossible.

William H. Force, the secretary of the Robbin's

possible.

William H. Force, the secretary of the Robbin's Island Club, is well known in Long Island as a lover of out-of-door sports. He has the reputation of being one of the best drivers and cross-country riders in the Riding and Driving Club of country riders in the Riding and Driving Club of Brooklyn, and owns one of the handsomest equi-pages in the city. He is vice-president and mana-ger of the Royal Horse Association, a company whose members are New-York, Brooklyn and Pitisburg capitalists. The company owns land, buildings and stock near Cheyenne, Wyoming, worth \$1.500,000, and has a breeding ranch of 120,000 acres. It also has stables in Brooklyn, Mr. Force is the senior partner in the firm of William H. Force & Co. His wife is a daughter of T. V. P. Talmage and a granddaughter of ex-Mayor Talmage, and he has two daughters. In addition to the Robbin's Island and Riding and

Driving clubs, Mr. Force is a member of the Hamilton, Crescent and Brooklyn clubs of Brook-lyn, the Cheyenne Club of Wyoming and the



In Remsen-st, and a summer home in Lawrence, Long Island, but at present has apartments in the Hotel Margaret on Columbia Heights.

OLD, BUT FULL OF FIGHT.

JOHN DICK WOULD LIKE TO GO TO CUBA AND FIGHT FOR FREEDOM.

HE HAS HAD PLENTY OF EXPERIENCE, AND THINKS ONE AMERICAN CAN WHIP

my old gun and jine a fullbusterin' expedition and ike me along with them, I suppose, though the time was when I could outfight any two men that you could get together these days." This was the declaration of o'd John Dick, almost seventy years old, of No. 62 Carroll-st. as he sat in a chair in the pension office of Butts & Phillips in Wil-loughby-st., near Fulton-st., a few days ago. A

une reporter was present and learned that the old man was a pensioner of the Mexican War, took part in a fillbustering expedition which went to man, and his beligerent spirit so pervasive of every-thing in the pension office, that he was requested ain't much of a story," said he. "I never riz very

"Tell us about the Mexican War," said the re-

igh in the service, but I've got my pension paper

n Company I, 1st New-York Mexican Volunteers, lina del Rey, Chapultepec and the storming of the City of Mexico. I had the fun of walking into Genof his colored help, and taking away a lot of his household goods. Then we came back home, and in time in doin' it. We leaded our 5,000 muskets, which we had brought away from New-Orleans, together with a good deal of ammunition, back onto the boat, and steamed away from the wharf just as those Spaniaris recovered their courage and began to make it too hot for us to stay there. We were steamin' out of the bay when we ran that cassed boat onto a sandbar. Then we wuz in a purity fix. The Spaniaris sent yord to a couple of menowar, and they steamed up as close to us as they could and opened fire. Ef they hadn't been the adfirelest poorest marksmen on the face of the earth, I wouldn't a be here to-day tellin' about it. They shot all around that boat and never hit us once where it hunt any. We dumped everything off that we could to lighter her, and by-and-by she floated again. The way we hustled back to New-Orleans was a caution. We got our 5,000 muskets back, and got well paid for our trouble But I had a fightin streak on then, and a year or two later, when General Walker fitted out his fillbusterin' expedition to Nicaragoa, I signed papers to go with him. As bad had would have it, I was taken sick the week before we wuz ready to go, and I lost my chance.

"I didn't have long to wait, though," continued the old man, wiping his chin a little bit nervously at the recollection of hogone days, and shuffling his feet on the floor. "I didn't have long to wait. Pretty soon after that they fired on Fort Sumter, and I enilsted in the 75th New-York and went to the front. I didn't like he way they were runnin' things, and got the privilege of returning to Brook lyn and re-enlisting with General Frank Spinola, who organized the Third Empire Brigade, which afterward became the 16th Regiment. After the battle of Fredericksourg my time was up, and I was mustered out as a sergeant of the 16th. I ain't had no regime fightly since then," continued the old man with a sigh, "but, by thunder, I would like to load up an old musket, fill up the old knapsack with some salt horse and hardtack, fill up the old canteen, and go down to cl

DEATH OF FREDERICK A. FOX.

Frederick A. Fox, a Brooklyn lawyer, and brother of ex-Judge George L. Fox, died after a long illless on Friday night, from anaemia at his home No. 147 Taylor-st. He was a trustee of the Eastern District Hospital and a life member of the Roman Catholic Orphan Asylum. He was a bachelor, and was fifty-eight years old.

SHE HAS A PULL WITH THE PRESIDENT. From The Richmond Dispatch.

From The Richmond Dispatch.

Miss Neille Parker, one of the belles of this city, again renewed her acquaintance with President Cleveland last Saturday. It will be remembered that at the unveiling of the Martha Washington monument at Fredericksburg in May, 1894. Miss Parker met the President, and at the banquet that evening the Chief Executive presented the Richmond beauty with a penny, laushingly requesting her to keep it as a souventr of the occasion. Miss Parker again met the President in Atlanta on Virginia Day, one of the first questions he asked Governor Farrell being. "Where was the young lady to whom I gave the penny?" Upon seeing her, he asked her if she had the soin, to which she replied that she certainly had, and that it was framed in gold.

Last week Miss Parker was visiting friends in Alexandria, and went over to Washington on Saturday. She thought she would call upon the President at the White House, and did so, being accompanied by Colonel L. C. Barley, of Governor O Ferrall's staff. It so happened that the President at that staff. It so happened that the President at that hour—which was shortly after noon—was busily engaged in a conference with a committee on the Venezuelan question, and one of the servants told Miss Parker that he did not think the Executive could be seen then. Miss Parker, however, wishing to see if the President still remembered the little incident, wrote upon her card the following words: "The girl you gave the penny to." Its presentation promptly sained her an audience with the President. She was shown to Secretary Thurber's office, and when the committee had left she was ushered into the presence of Mr. Cleveland. The President seemed delighted to see her, and spoke of the little incident at Fredericksburg. Fredericksburg.

HE RUNS WITH THE STREETCARS. From The Owensboro (Ky.) Inquirer.

From The Owenshoro (Ky.) Inquirer.

An Owenshoro dog has a weakness for the electric cars. He knows everybody connected with the streetear company, but allows no familiarity. All he asks is to be permitted to run alongside the car, and occasionally get aboard to rest. He can start out with the fastest car and keep up with it for a round trip without getting on. He is a masoot, as he often runs ahead and clears the track of porkers and cows that get on the track.

ABRAHAM STRAUS Brooklyn, N. Y. AND STRAUS

OPENING SALE SPRING DRESS STUFFS.

Lowest Prices Ever Quoted for New Goods at the Beginning of the Season.

(Note-This Covert was formerly sold at 59c, yard.)

BLACK DRESS GOODS.

The department is overflowing with the latest Novelties, varying from 85c, to 5.00 per yd.

Specials in

BLACK & COLORED SILKS.

23 inch Black Satin Duchesse, in an extra heavy | 26 inch Black Taffeta, extra strong, a 500

22 inch Black Satin Finish Surahs, guaranteed to wear well, a good article at 1.00, special...65c

Special in Foster Lacing Gloves. SPECIAL-4,000 pairs Glace and Suede Gloves in all desirable colors.

With Foster hooks. These gloves, because of this improved fastener, will fit every wrist. Not more than three pairs of gloves sold to a customer.

5 hook, regular price 1.35 . . . ? 7 hook, regular price 1.50 . . § 3,000 prs., same colors, in Glace only, \$1.00 quality } 59c | feet fit and finish.

Unusually Low Prices For the Best Shirt Waists.

In Shirt Waist Dep't is a complete assortment of Madras, Grass Linen, French Chambray, Dotted Swiss, Dimities, Organdles, Persian Lawns, and Zephyrs, with detachable collars and cuffs; excellent value for,

As a leader, our regular 69c, Percale Waists, stock

79c., 97c., 1.35, 1.69, 2.48 and 2.96

collars, extra large sleeves, in all colors, for. . 39c We are the sole agents for the "Star" and "Sylvia" Waists, which are guaranteed for per-

JAPANESE & SMYRNA RUGS

At the Lowest Prices Ever Quoted.

All New Patterns, just received. Smyrna Rugs. 18x36 in., worth 98c., now 21x42 in., worth 1.75, now 26x54 in., worth 2.45, now 36x60 in., worth 2.90, now 36x72 in., worth 4.00 now

Japanese Rugs.

ABRAHAM. STRAUS

Brooklyn,

REJECTION OF A MINISTER WHO PLAYS WHIST, RIDES A BICYCLE AND SMOKES.

A DIFFERENCE OF OPINION IN THE NEW-ENG-LAND CONGREGATIONAL CHURCH REGARD-

Part of the congregation of the New-England Congregational Church, in South Ninth-st., is much exercised over the rejection of the Rev. Charles A. Alden, of Schenectady, N. Y., as a successor to the Rev. Alexander Lewis, who left the church last Christmas to take charge of a wider field in Wor-cester, Mass. Mr. Alden is regarded among the members of the church over which he presides as an eloquent preacher. He is popular in Schenec-tady, and when the Rev. Mr. Lewis resigned some of the members of the church recommended Mr. Alden to the Supply Committee, which has in charge Alden to the Supply Committee, which has in charge the finding of a new pastor. He received an invita-tion to preach in the church, and did so on two Sundays in January. He made a favorable im-pression, and members of the congregation de-clared that he was acceptable. The Supply Committee was on the point of reporting favorably when rumors affecting the Schenectady clergyman came to it. The committee decided to go to Schenectady and ascertain what truth there was in the rumors. The inquirers reported unfavorably.
The report was made known at a meeting on Friday night, and since then half of the congregation is disturbed about it, feeling that the committee has done Mr. A.den an injustice. A brother of the minister, John Alden, who lives at No. 139 Rodneyst., yesterlay made the following statement:

minister, John Alden, who lives at No. 13 Rodneyst. yesterlay made the following statement:

My brother, the Rev. Charles A. Alden, of Schenectady, preached twice in the New-England Congregational Church, and was regarded as a candidate for the vacant pastorate. A committee of two men was sent to Schenectady to investigate him. Having applied for information to a man who was expelled by a unanimous vote from the Schenectady church, the committee found that my brother was still burdened with some debt from his self-secured education. It was also found that he smokes, plays whist and rides a bloycle. The committee came back and reported, informally, in favor of dropping consideration of his name, refusing to say why, and leaving opportunity for all manner of conjecture—an opportunity that was at once taken advantage of hy scandal mongers. As a result I have almost been left in doubt myself whether to believe my clerical brother a horse thlefor something worse.

Now, the New-England Congregational Church has a right to have a thirteenth century man. But its Pulpit Committee has no right to backen the character of a clergyman in good standing by the suppression of truth, which is the meanest of falsehoods. The church meeting last night refused to compel these men to explain. The only recourse, therefore, is an appeal to publicity.

BLAMING DOCTORS FOR HER CHILD'S DEATH

Mrs. John Gestwick, of No. 189 McKibbin-st., threatens to sue St. Catherine's Hospital for the death of her little daughter in that institution about death of her little daughter in that institution as a month ago. According to Mrs. Gestwick, the child came home from school on the afternoon of January 21 with several blue marks on her right knee, and complained of being sick. Mrs. Gestknee, and complained of being sick. Mrs. Gest-wick said that she sent the child to the hospital, where she was found to be suffering from tubercu where she was found to be suffering from tubercu-lar meningitis, as well as peritonitis. Mrs. Gest-wick added that an operation was performed, after which the child died. At the hospital last evening House Surgeon O'Brien denied that an operation was performed without the mother's consent. Dr. O'Brien said that when the child was brought to the hospital it was in a bad condition, and it was decided to resort to an operation. Before the operation was undertaken, Dr. O'Brien said there was a poor chance for the girl's recovery. WATCHING A TOTTERING HOUSE.

The old armory building on the southeast corner The old armory building on the southeast corner of Bedford-ave, and North Second-st., which has for years been known as Grand Army Hall, has been considered ansafe, and yesterday a policeman was stationed on the sidewalk in front of the Bedford-ave, entrance to warn pedestrians. Ever since

IN THE EASTERN DISTRICT. | building has been considered unsafe. It is all side and part of the wall on the Bedford-ave. side side and part of the wall on the Bedford-ave. side were undermined enough to break the plaster in the interior. About eighteen months ago Mansfield Post, which took a lease of the hall after it was vacated by the 47th Regiment, decided to quit the building, as the veterans were satisfied that the building was unsafe. On Friday several people noticed that the front wall of the building was buighing and bricks were falling. Captain Short, of the Bedford-ave, police station, was notified, and yesterday he put the policeman on guard. It is thought probable that the building will now be formally condemned and torn down. It was built in 1863.

"CLERK OF THE TOWN OF FLATLANDS."

THE NEW TITLE THAT IS HUMOROUSLY AT-TACHED TO CHIEF CLERK POWLER, OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CITY WORKS.

The Clerk of the Town of Flatlands? Indeed, his history ought to be told as succinctly, though per-force in not quite so few words, as the famous hapter on the snakes of Ireland which Dr. Johnson celebrated and Boswell immortalized. There is no Clerk of the Town of Flatlands. To go one step further back, there is no Town of Flatlands. How, possibly, then, can a town which is non-existent be seized and possessed of a clerk?

These and various similar conundrums may naturally arise in the mind of any one who obtains the open sesame to the offices of the Department of City Works in the Municipal Building-not so easy a matter, by-the-way, in these days, when at which is seated Bernard Fowler, the smiling and unruffled chief clerk of the Department. To a stranger there is nothing in his appearance or en-Mr. Fowler fills, to the entire satisfaction of his chief, his fellow-officials, and that part of the general public which comes in contact with him. Nothing, that is to say, except the mysterious legend on the safe which stands alongside the chief clerk's desk.

This legend reads, "Clerk of the Town

Inis legend reads, "Clerk of the Town of Flat-lands," A mystery, indeed! The town of Flat-lands, as everybody knows, passed out of ex-istence at midnight on December 31, 1895, and the Clerk and all other functionaries engaged in the administration of its affairs are officially and legally defunct. Mr. Fowler, it is understood, makes no claim to be the successor in any sense makes no claim to be the successor in any sense makes no claim to be the successor in any sense of the word to the sometime Clerk, and there is no evidence that the official just mentioned bequeathed any of his property to any particular officer or department of the city. But there the bald fact stares in the face every one who approaches Mr. Fowler's deak-"Clerk of the Town of Flatlands." He lays no claim to the title, but his friends are beginning to attach it to him, and he responds instantly when delicate allusions to the Clerk of the Town of Flatlands are made in his hearing. Be it understood that this office, in so far as it relates to Mr. Fowler, is entirely honorary. There are no emoluments connected with it. Neither are there any duties. How long Mr. Fowler will continue to retain the office—if indeed he can truthfully be said to hold it—is uncertain.

Carefully conducted inquiries among those cognizant of the inside facts in this minor chapter of municipal history show that when Flatiands became a ward of the city of Brooklyn all its property became the property of the city, and was, in the natural course of things, turned over to the custody of the Commissioner of City Works. The ancient records of the town were passed on to the Corporation Counsel, but the safe in which they had reposed for years was seized upon by Chief Clerk Fowler, who realized hat it would supply a long-felt want in his corner of the City Works Department. He not only kept his eye on it; he secured at least a semblance of that possession which is commonly accounted nine points of the law. There was an eager competition for the possession of the safe, upon whose short and simple annals no stain had been cast while it was in the custody of the actual Clerk of the Town of Flatiands, whose superscription, so to speak, it still bears.

custody of the actual Clerk of the Town of Fiat-lands, whose superscription, so to speak, it still bears.

Speaking of the safe, by-the-way, it is safe to say that some day Chief Clerk Fowler will grow weary of the gibes which are made at his expense as the potential Clerk of the defunct town. Then he will call in a painter and will have the time-honoied legend expunged from the safe of which he has secured possession by the simple act of laying on his hands. Then of a truth the Clerk of the Town of Figtlands will become a thing of the pass the forty-foot sewer was laid one hundred feet un-